

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER THIRTY - THREE

- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa recognizes that public and private efforts to address and prevent homelessness are in the best interests of all Iowans; and the State of Iowa is committed to ensuring all Iowans have access to safe, decent and affordable housing, health care and education; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, created in 1987 by Congress and the Executive Branch with the passage of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (“McKinney Act”), 42 U.S.C. 11311 et seq., in partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors, is supporting the creation of interagency councils on homelessness in our nation’s states; and
- WHEREAS,** the State of Iowa has taken affirmative steps to reduce and eliminate homelessness in Iowa, including the formation of the Governor’s Interagency Task Force on Homelessness (“Task Force”), whose responsibilities and functions have informally expanded over the years, including responsibilities under the McKinney Act; and
- WHEREAS,** the Task Force is an ongoing entity that works to increase the effectiveness and activities of Local Homeless Coordinating Boards; assist in the development and maintenance of a statewide continuum of care to end homelessness; facilitate the collection of demographic data on homeless Iowans and anecdotal information on causes of homelessness in Iowa, and to increase public awareness and education about homelessness; and
- WHEREAS,** a comprehensive and coordinated effort by designated State agencies and other entities is called for to develop strategies to alleviate and end homelessness within the State of Iowa:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws and the Constitution of the State of Iowa, do hereby create and recognize the Iowa Council on Homelessness (“Council”) and order and direct the heads of the following state agencies to participate in the Iowa Council on Homelessness:

Iowa Department of Economic Development
Iowa Department of Education
Iowa Department of Human Services
Iowa Department of Justice
Iowa Department of Human Rights
– Division of Community Action Agencies
Iowa Department of Elder Affairs
Iowa Department of Public Health
Iowa Department of Corrections
Iowa Workforce Development Administration
Iowa Department of Public Safety
Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
Iowa Finance Authority

- I. Each agency head shall designate one or more representatives that through the Council shall evaluate policies, programs, statutes within agencies and regulations of their respective agencies and divisions to determine whether any should be revised or modified or resources better coordinated with other agencies.

- II. The Council shall seek membership and varying levels of participation from consumers, advocacy organizations, providers, and relevant federal and local agency representatives and others to facilitate collaboration across Iowa to address the needs of the homeless, alleviate and prevent homelessness.
- III. The Council shall draw upon existing resources to identify and prioritize efforts to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and to eliminate the barriers that keep people homeless. The Council is to engage in planning activities to ensure the resources of each State agency are utilized in the most efficient and effective manner to support the goals of addressing the needs of the homeless and eliminating homelessness. The Council shall identify and utilize federal and other funding opportunities to address and alleviate homelessness within the State of Iowa. The Council shall work to identify causes and effects of homelessness in Iowa, develop recommendations to address homelessness, and foster greater awareness among policy makers and the general public.
- IV. The Council shall on an annual basis advise the Governor's Office and the Iowa Finance Authority on workable strategies to eliminate homelessness in Iowa and for developing a well-coordinated and seamless service delivery system to prevent and alleviate homelessness.
- V. The Council shall meet at least six times per year. The Council shall within one hundred and eighty days of the signing of this order develop a ten year plan to address homelessness in Iowa coordinated with the efforts of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. The Council shall oversee the completion of a report on homelessness in Iowa every two calendar years. The Council shall on an annual basis oversee the completion of the state's Continuum of Care application for funding under the McKinney Act.
- VI. I designate the Iowa Finance Authority as the State's administering agency in developing and implementing this Executive Order and as such, I direct the Iowa Finance Authority, in cooperation with other state agencies, to provide staff support as necessary to carry out the mission and purpose of the Council. Upon enactment of this Executive Order, the Task Force is hereby dissolved.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 17th day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

CHESTER J. CULVER
SECRETARY OF STATE